AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

7. (Currently Amended) A method for checking a bore hole, comprising:

~~introducing~~ shaping the bore hole in a workpiece by laser pulses that cause melting of a bore wall;

receiving characteristic signals from a region of the bore hole by a sensor;

comparing characteristic signals received within a characteristic time interval following a laser pulse to setpoint values, the characteristic time interval defined as a function of material properties of the workpiece and as a function of process parameters of the laser pulse, the characteristic time interval beginning at an earliest as soon as at least a thin skin of [[a]] the bore wall has solidified after melting by a preceding laser pulse and ending at a latest as soon as a new laser pulse occurs.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the characteristic time interval begins as soon as an entire melted material has solidified, a length of the characteristic time interval selected such that a sufficient quantity of signal data is receivable in the receiving step.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the characteristic signals are received in the receiving step by at least one of (a) a CCD camera and (b) a CMOS camera.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, further comprising emitting at least one of (a) an optical and (b) a thermal measuring signal in a direction of the region of the bore hole starting with the beginning of the characteristic time interval.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the measuring signal is emitted in the emitting step by a drilling laser.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the checking is performed with respect to at least one of (a) a piercing of a workpiece wall, (b) a bore-hole depth and (c) a deviation from a predefined bore hole geometry.